



July - September 2008



LOUISIANA ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY ACCREDITATION PROGRAM (LELAP) UPDATE AND NEWS

LELAP OUTREACH — Accreditation 101 will be postponed to November, 2008. The presentation will be held in Baton Rouge. The course at Shreveport is cancelled. Please send comments to deqlaboratory@la.gov or to paul.bergeron@la.gov, or call (225) 219-9800.

HURRICANES GUSTAV AND IKE — If your laboratory operation is affected by the hurricanes, please inform LELAP of your laboratory working conditions.

LELAP SOPs — The LELAP will update the QAM and two SOPs by the end of October, 2008.

OTHER NEWS — Paul Bergeron and evaluators from EPA Region 4 completed the onsite evaluation of the Florida Department of Health Environmental Laboratory Certification Program (ELCP) and one observation of an assessment conducted by the Florida ELCP. LELAP is preparing its application for renewal of its status as an accreditation body.

THE NELAC INSTITUTE-NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING CONFERENCE JOINT MEETING

The NELAC Institute-National Environmental Monitoring Conference Joint Meeting was held August 11-15, 2008 in Washington DC. Attending the meeting were Elaine Sorbet and Paul Bergeron. Ms. Sorbet attended the Field Measurements and Sampling Organizations Committee meeting and Mr. Bergeron represented the Department as an alternate on the NELAP Board. Mr. Bergeron also co-chaired a session of the State Assessment Forum with Steve Arms of Florida. Mr. Bergeron and Mr. Arms joined panelists representing other accreditation bodies in discussing the salient features of state accreditation bodies for the morning program. During the afternoon program the same panel answered questions put forth from attendees and relayed from the Laboratory Accreditation Systems Committee regarding the interpretation of method requirements and the 2003 NELAC standard.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS OF THE TNI CONFERENCE: Attendees heard presentations on elemental speciation of metal-containing compounds; the regulation of nanotechnology; the latest news from federal officials in the Office of Water, the Office of Air and Radiation, the Office of Solid Waste, and the Office of Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxic Substances; and global monitoring of persistent organic pollutants. The implementation of SW-846 Update IV was discussed in more than one committee meeting. Some accreditation bodies are separating the accreditation process from the regulation of methods listed in permits. A change in the requirement establishing the frequency of proficiency test participation continued to be a subject of discussion. Attendees were encouraged to join committees working on updating methods in the Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater. A plan was also discussed on final approval and implementation of the TNI standards; a vote by the NELAP Board is anticipated for the upcoming interim meeting in Miami, FL. Maine, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Minnesota, and Kentucky were mentioned as potential new accreditation bodies.

LABORATORY SERVICES DIVISION (LSD) REACCREDITATION

The LSD laboratory will be assessed by the Florida ELCP October 27-30, 2008.

18TH ANNUAL EPA REGION 6 QUALITY ASSURANCE CONFERENCE

The 18th annual EPA Region 6 Quality Assurance Conference will be held October 20-24, 2008 in Dallas, TX. One session will be devoted to laboratory accreditation. It will feature updates from TNI and EPA and the perspective of an accredited laboratory. In attendance for the LSD laboratory will be Jason Liu and David Liu.

We solicit your questions, comments, problems, and/or recommendations for this newsletter. Please send them to deqlaboratory@la.gov or call 225-219-9800.

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